

MEDICAID BULLETIN

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Hosp

TO: Nursing Facilities, Community Long Term Care Providers, and Hospitals

SUBJECT: Home Again Program Implementation

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will implement the Home Again program beginning September 1, 2012. Home Again is part of the national initiative called The Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration Program administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

A. The Purpose of the Home Again Program

The Home Again program is designed to transition persons who have been in an institution for 90 days (at minimum, the last day must be under Medicaid sponsorship) and wish to return to the community. The major goal of the Home Again program is to optimize the participant's life choices and rights, to minimize threats to the participant's safety and health, and to provide a mechanism for managing access to home and community-based alternatives to institutional care. The project allows for a range of options for persons who want to direct their own home and community-based long term care services through the assistance of a transition coordinator. The Home Again program will enable SCDHHS to rebalance the state's long term care system and expand the capacity for home and community-based services.

Based on need and level of care, participants will be enrolled into the Home Again program and a home and community-based (HCBS) Medicaid waiver, excluding the Pervasive Developmental Disorder and the Medically Complex Children's Waivers. Enrollees will receive waiver services in addition to the services that Home Again offers. At the end of 365 day time period, the enrollee will no longer receive Home Again services but will continue to receive waiver services.

B. Program Goals

- Increase the use of HCBS and reduce the use of institutionally based services;
- Eliminate barriers or mechanisms that restrict use of Medicaid funds so individuals receive support for Long Term Supports and Services (LTSS) in the setting of their choice;
- Strengthen the ability of states to assure continued provision of HCBS individuals who choose to transition from institutions to the community; and,
- Ensure HCBS quality procedures are in place and provide for continuous quality improvement.

C. Target populations

The program is available statewide to the following Medicaid recipients:

- Adults who are aged and/or disabled residing in skilled nursing facilities;
- Adults with intellectual disabilities residing in Intermediate Care Facilities for Intellectual Disabilities; and,
- Children with severe emotional disturbances residing in Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities.

D. Program Eligibility

Eligible participants must:

- Reside in one of the qualified facilities (skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility, and psychiatric residential treatment facility) for the past 90 days;
- Be enrolled in Medicaid for at least one day before transitioning; and,
- Meet appropriate institutional level of care.

E. Home Again Services

The services for participants will vary based on the person's plan of care. These services are classified as pilot/demonstration services and are being tested for possible inclusion in the waivers. The program will begin initially with the following two services:

- Transition Coordination
- Expanded Goods and Services

The remaining services will be phased in over a several month period. These additional services will include:

- Crisis Intervention
- Wireless Sensors
- Expanded Employment Services
- Expanded Assistive Devices
- Community Living Service
- Guided Care Nurse Services
- Service Animals

Please visit <https://msp.scdhhs.gov/homeagain/> for additional information. If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact program coordinators, Adam Hiers at Hiersj@scdhhs.gov or SeLim Son at Sonse@scdhhs.gov. Thank you for your continued support of the South Carolina Medicaid program.

/s/
Anthony E. Keck
Director